

Mrs. Ida Hendricks, Walnut.
MINUTES *Ala.*

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WARRIOR RIVER

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

MOUNT TABOR BAPTIST CHURCH,

Blount County, Alabama,

ON THE

9th, 10th AND 12th OF OCTOBER, 1874.

OFFICERS:

ELDER P. M. MUSGROVE, MODERATOR, *Bangor, Ala.*

“ V. H. DEAN, REC. CLERK, *Walnut Grove,* “

“ C. A. BURNS, COR. “ *Bangor,* “

H. H. MITCHELL, TREASURER, *Chepultepec,* “

GADSDEN, ALA.:

PRINTED AT THE TIMES BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

1874.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read the Letters from the Churches.
3. Call for Petitionary Letters.
4. Elect Moderator, Clerks and Treasurer.
5. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.
6. Invite visiting Ministers to seats.
7. Call for Correspondence.
8. Appoint usual Committees.
9. Locate Union Meetings.
10. Return Correspondence.
11. Appoint Delegates to Alabama Baptist Convention.
12. Hear Reports of usual Committees.
13. Hear Report of Trustees of Mulberry College.
14. Hear Report of Treasurer.
15. Hear Report of Missionaries.
16. Hear Reports of Special Committees.
17. Consider Queries.
18. Attend to General Business.
19. Elect Preacher of Introductory and Writer of Circular.
20. Fix time and place of next session.
21. Fix order of printing and distributing Minutes.
22. Read and correct Minutes.
23. Call and correct Roll.

MINUTES.

MT. TABOR CHURCH. BLOUNT COUNTY, ALA., }
October 19th, 1874. }

The messengers composing the Warrior River Baptist Association met with the above church, according to previous arrangement. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder James Fields, on the first clause of the 10th verse of the 3d chapter of Matthew.

1. After an intermission of thirty minutes met in the house, when the body was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by Elder P. M. Musgrove.

2. The letters of the various churches read and names of delegates enrolled.

3. Called for petitionary letters, when New Hope and Mt. High presented letters, and, being found orthodox, were received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to the delegates.

4. Elected Elders P. M. Musgrove Moderator, V. H. Dean Recording Clerk, C. A. Burns Corresponding Clerk, and brother H. H. Mitchell Treasurer. The Moderator, after a few remarks, announced the Association organized and ready for business. The order of business as printed in last year's minutes was adopted.

5. Read the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith.

6. Invited visiting ministers to seats. Accepted by Elder E. P. Mitchell.

7. Called for correspondence, when a package of minutes from the Cherokee Association was presented by our Clerk; from Canaan a package of minutes by Elder J. M. Thomas; from Mud Creek a letter by brother James L. Meigs.

8. Appointed committees. On devotion, G. Fowler, H. H. Mitchell, A. Burns, with the deacons of Mt. Tabor church; on state of religion, J. C. Shelton, N. T. Morgan, A. J. Phillips; on finance, W. Y. Adams, W. A. Dupree; on Sabbath schools, C. A. Burns, A. F. Whitley, James Fields; on temperance, V. H. Dean, W. H. Lyon, J. P. A. Whaley; on missions, James Fields, William Whaley, F. L. Hearn; on documents, J. Y. Bain, T. J. Weeks, M. N. Gregory.

9. On motion adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. M. Thomas.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. Y. Bain.

10. Called the roll and read and approved the minutes of yesterday.

11. On motion suspended the order of business to appoint a committee on deceased ministers and deacons. Committee consists of V. H. Dean, H. H. Mitchell and G. Fowler.

12. Located union meetings. 1st district at Union church, Friday before the 4th Lord's day in July—Elder Wm. Whaley to preach the introductory; 2d district at Antioch church, Friday before the 2d Lord's day in August—Elder G. B. Waid to preach the introductory, Elder J. C. Shelton alternate.

13. Appointed correspondence. To the Cherokee Association, to meet with Mt. Zion church, near Valley Head, Friday before the 3d Lord's day in September, 1875, Elders James Fields, B. Chambers and J. F. Miller; to the Canaan, Friday before the first Lord's day in October, 1875, at Village Springs, Elders J. C. Shelton, P. M. Musgrove, J. Y. Bain, E. P. Mitchell, G. B. Waid, and brothers H. H. Mitchell, G. Fowler and A. F. Whitley; to the Muscle Shoals, Elders C. A. Burns, W. Whaley, D. Carroll, and brother T. J. Weeks; to the North River, Elder P. M. Musgrove and brothers J. Sanlin and A. F. Whitley. In consequence of distance and proximity of time, dropped correspondence with Mud Creek, and also with the General Association of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama.

14. Appointed Elders P. M. Musgrove, J. Y. Bain, C. A. Burns, G. B. Waid, delegates to Alabama Baptist Convention.

15. Received report on missions. Pending consideration of the same, took a recess for preaching of two and a half hours. Preaching by Elder J. Y. Bain.

1½ o'clock P. M.—The Association met and resumed consideration of the report, and after some remarks by various brethren it was adopted. Appendix A.

16. Received the report on temperance, and after some discussion adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. C. Shelton.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11.

At 10 o'clock A. M. Elder J. M. Thomas made a talk to the children. At 11 the stand was occupied by Elder P. M. Musgrove, who preached to a large and attentive audience on Matt. 28, 19th and 20th verses; after which a collection was taken up in aid of the home mission, amounting in cash and pledges to \$19.55. Afternoon preaching by Elder J. Y. Bain. At night by Elder J. C. Shelton. Much precious seed was sown during the session of the Association, which we trust will bring much fruit to the glory of God.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 9 A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment at the meeting house of Gum Spring church, which had been tendered for that purpose. Prayer by Elder C. A. Burns.

17. Invited ministers to seats. Accepted by Elder W. McHam.

18. At the request of the chairman of the committee on temperance, he was permitted to withdraw said report, when a report was submitted by Elder C. A. Burns in lieu of said report, and was adopted. Appendix B.

19. Received report on Sabbath schools, and after some verbal amendments was adopted. Appendix C.

20. Received report on documents, and after amendment it was adopted. Appendix D. A special committee was appointed to visit Union church to explain to them the reason a letter was withheld for the present, to wit: that both the union meeting and ministers' and deacons' meeting of the first district are appointed to be held with that church. Committee: P. M. Musgrove, C. A. Burns and F. L. Hearn.

21. Received report on state of religion, and after amendment it was adopted. Appendix E.

22. Received and adopted report of trustees of Mulberry College. Appendix F.

23. Received and adopted report of executive committee. Appendix G.

24. Received report on deceased ministers and deacons. After some remarks by brethren Dean, Musgrove and Fields, it was adopted. Appendix H. Adopted report on finance. Appendix I.

25. Our missionaries then made reports, which were to be added in epitome to report of executive committee.

26. The following resolution was then offered by brother G. Fowler: *Resolved*, That we recommend the members of the churches composing this Association to plant a small piece of land—say one-half or one-fourth of an acre—in cotton, the proceeds of the same to be devoted, one-half to the pastor of the church and the other to the missionary, praying God's blessing upon the effort; and we request pastors and the missionary to call the attention of the brethren to this resolution early in the spring.

27. Elected Elder Wm. Whaley missionary in first district, and Elder J. Y. Bain for the second district, each district to support the missionary appointed therein.

28. Appointed P. M. Musgrove, F. L. Hearn, W. Y. Adams, G. M. Legrande, A. Burns, W. H. Musgrove, John Callahan, J. A. Collins, J. H. Berrier, trustees of Mulberry College.

29. Ordered that the money on hand for home mission be

equally divided between Elders C. A. Burns and J. Y. Bain for their services, according to amount of labor performed.

30. On motion a committee, consisting of J. C. Shelton, A. F. Whitley and G. Fowler, be appointed on the difficulties suggested in letter from Mt. Moriah church.

31. *Resolved*, That we recommend our brethren to subscribe for and read the *Alabama Baptist* and the *Memphis Baptist* as sound Baptist papers.

32. Adopted circular letter prepared by brother F. L. Hearn, and requested the *Alabama Baptist* and *Memphis Baptist* to publish the same.

33. *Resolved*, That we return our sincere thanks to God for His blessings and mercies extended to us during the past year, and to our brethren and friends of Mt. Tabor for the hospitality with which they have entertained us during the present session, and to the brethren of Gum Spring church for the use of their house of worship.

34. Elected Elder P. M. Musgrove to preach the introductory to the next session, Elder J. Y. Bain alternate; Elder J. C. Shelton to write circular.

35. Appointed the next session of this Association to be held with Harmony church, fifteen miles east of Blountsville, to begin Friday before the 2d Lord's day in October, 1875.

36. Appropriated twenty dollars to the printing of the minutes, and that the Clerk receive the balance of the fund for his services, and that he distribute to the churches according to the amount sent up.

37. Adopted report of difficulties of Mt. Moriah church. Appendix K.

38. Adopted letter of correspondence. Appendix L.

39. Appointed correspondence to Sulphur Springs Association: P. M. Musgrove, F. L. Hearn, C. A. Burns, Wm. Young, T. J. Weeks, J. C. Shelton, I. Edwards.

40. Adopted the following preamble offered by brother F. L. Hearn: Whereas, our beloved brother, Elder V. H. Dean, is about to leave the Warrior River Association, therefore *Resolved*, That this body, now in session at Mt. Tabor church, Blount county, Ala., tender to our dear brother Dean our heartfelt thanks for his able and efficient services as our clerk for three of its sessions. We therefore heartily commend him as a sound Baptist and an efficient minister.

41. Read and approved the minutes. Corrected roll.

42. After singing a parting hymn, and prayer by Elder V. H. Dean, adjourned to place and time above named.

P. M. MUSGROVE, *Moderator*.

V. H. DEAN, *Recording Clerk*.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.—[A.]

Your committee on missions beg leave to report: That the Warrior River Association has missionary ground within its limits. It has some churches without pastors, and some vicinities without Baptist knowledge, and but few Sunday schools; hence there is much labor for a missionary within our bounds. Neither of the brethren appointed at our last session could serve but a short time, but both did some service last fall and since crops have been laid by. Elder J. M. Thomas stirred the churches of the second district up to subscribe of their substance to the support of our missionaries; but they understood that our brethren would not ride, so nothing has been done for their support. We would suggest that, if you appoint a missionary for the next year, you elect one by ballot; and would urge each pastor to bring the subject of home missions before his churches and insist on the brethren to do something for the missionary of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES FIELDS, *Ch'n.*

TEMPERANCE.—[B.]

We, your committee on temperance, offer the following suggestions: That the churches are alive to the deleterious influence of dram-drinking, the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the making or selling of the same. We would recommend the propriety and *necessity* of totally abstaining from their use as a beverage, or the making and selling of the same. To this end we advise our ministers to preach temperance according to the Scriptures and abstinence from all appearance of evil; and that the churches withdraw from all disorderly members in the matter of drunkenness, as well as all other disorderly conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. BURNS, *Ch'n.*

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—[C.]

Your committee on Sabbath schools offer the following report: That, according to our observation and information, there has been but little done on this subject the past year.

We have been informed that there are several Bible reading classes in the western part of our Association and some in the eastern part, several in school houses more suited to neighborhoods than the churches, which is well. We earnestly urge all our brethren to consider the probabilities of the future, if we neglect Sabbath Bible reading. Other denominations will have Sabbath Schools and will give them strict attention, and our children will there be taught, as spectators or students, doctrines and practices that we oppose and to which the Holy Bible is a stranger. Brethren, let us think, pray and act. We should labor to bring every young person of our neighborhood into Sabbath Bible reading classes, to study the words of Jesus in the New Testament, that are able to make them wise unto salvation. Blessed work! Let us be zealous therein.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. BURNS, *Ch'n.*

DOCUMENTS.—[D.]

We, your committee on documents, offer the following report: We have examined the letters from the various churches and corresponding bodies. The following churches ask for letters of dismission, to wit: Union, Good Hope and Pisgah. We offer the following suggestion in regard to Union church: Inasmuch as the union meeting of the first district and ministers' and deacons' meeting have been appointed at that church, we solicit them to remain with us one more year at least. If they will not consent to do so, we suggest that our Corresponding Clerk be authorized to write them a letter.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Y. BAIN, *Ch'n.*

STATE OF RELIGION.—[E.]

We, your committee on state of religion, beg leave to report: That, according to the reading of the letters, many of the churches of our Association are rather in a cold and unfruitful condition. Some few of the churches, however, have been revived, and are prospering. We are fearful that there is too much unfaithfulness on the part of some, both pastors and brethren. Therefore, we recommend that we be more faithful and make more sacrifices for the cause of our Redeemer.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. SHELTON, *Ch'n.*

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF MULBERRY COLLEGE.

[F.]

Five years ago, at this place, the subject of a high school was presented to this Association, and trustees were appointed.

and some preliminary steps taken towards raising funds to erect suitable buildings. One year afterwards the trustees appointed were incorporated, the school located, and a law passed by the Alabama Legislature for its benefit; but, owing to causes not necessary to mention, nothing has been done towards building until the present year. We now have the pleasure of reporting to your body that the frame-work of a house 40x26 feet is up, which we hope to finish by the first of January next, so that the first session of our school can commence about that time. Brethren, we need help to finish this house, and we appeal to you for that help.

Respectfully submitted,

P. M. MUSGROVE,
President Board of Trustees.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—[G.]

Your executive committee respectfully report: That we were able to form a quorum only once during the past year, which was on the 10th day of November last. We could only suggest places of deposit for the contributions of the churches of each district. We wrote to as many of the churches as we could, stating our action. Some of the churches held themselves in readiness to do something for our missionaries, while others did not; we suppose nothing had been done. We think that an executive board in this Association cannot be efficient, and that said board had better be dispensed with, or, if it is continued, its members should live as near each other as possible. Before we close this report, we think proper to state the fact that one of our number has been taken to his reward. Brother Harvey Cornelius is no more! In his death your committee feels bereaved; the Baptist cause has lost a strong support; the Warrior River Association and the Walnut Grove church have lost an active and beloved member; and our bereaved sister and children have lost an affectionate companion and a doting father.

Respectfully submitted,

F. L. HEARN, *Ch'n.*

EPITOME OF MISSIONARIES' REPORT.—Elder J. Y. Bain reports: Traveled 225 miles, preached 72 sermons, baptized 28, witnessed 37 conversions. Elder C. A. Burns reports about three months labor, witnessed 46 conversions, most of the baptisms by the pastors of the churches, assisted in organizing 2 churches.

DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.—[H.]

Your committee on deceased ministers and deacons submit the following: That during the year just closed none of our

ministers have been taken to their rest, for which we are thankful; however, since your last session our beloved brother, Deacon Harvey Cornelius, a member of Walnut Grove Baptist church, has been called to his reward. He fell asleep in Jesus September 5th, 1874. He was for many years an active member of this Association, ever filling his seat among us and taking a lively interest in all that pertains to the advancement of our beloved Zion. He fell in the full triumphs of a living and active faith, and we comfort ourselves with the assurance that our temporal loss, though afflicting, is his eternal gain. We recommend the adoption of the following: *Resolved*, That we tender to the family of our deceased brother our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement and our prayers in their behalf. *Resolved*, That a copy of this report be handed to our sister Cornelius. Respectfully submitted,

V. H. DEAN, }
H. H. MITCHELL, } Com.
G. FOWLER, }

FINANCE.—[I.]

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Pleasant Hill.....	\$ 1 00	Brought forward..	\$14 35
Union	25	Harmony	2 00
Hopewell	1 00	Rock Spring	1 50
Mt. Tabor.....	2 00	Liberty.....	1 50
White Plains.....	2 20	Antioch.....	1 00
Bangor	1 00	Mt. Pleasant.....	80
Austin's Creek.....	50	Macedonia.....	1 25
Good Hope.....	1 00	Bristoe's Creek.....	1 50
Mt. Moriah.....	70	Clear Spring.....	1 65
Shiloh	70	New Hope.....	1 00
Friendship.....	2 00	Mt. High	1 00
Walnut Grove.....	2 00		
Carried forward..	\$14 35	Total	\$27 55

RECAPITULATION.

For Minutes.....	\$27 55
Collection for Missions.....	8 05
Pledges " "	11 50

\$47 10

Respectfully submitted,

W. Y. ADAMS, *Ch'n.*

DIFFICULTIES IN MT. MORIAH CHURCH.—[K.]

We, your committee, sympathize with Mt. Moriah church in her past disorder, in the act of receiving a member with his

Methodist baptism; also in the act of free or open communion. The church was led into these things by her pastor, J. L. Jones, and in consequence of said disorder has not been represented for two past years; but we feel rejoiced to say that the church held a called conference and undid all those disorderly acts; also notified Elder J. L. Jones to attend and make acknowledgements for having led her astray. The church has, through her delegates, made satisfaction to this Association. We therefore recommend that the church use strict discipline with Elder J. L. Jones; and also would warn other churches in this Association against similar offenses.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. SHELTON,
A. F. WHITLEY,
GODFREY FOWLER, } *Com.*

LETTER OF CORRESPONDENCE.—[*L.*]

The Warrior River Baptist Association to her Sisters in Correspondence:

We have to regret the failure of several adjacent Associations to meet us by corresponding messengers in our present meeting; yet we are thankful for the presence and efficient labors of those who did attend. We hope to have many of you meet us in our next session at Harmony church, fifteen miles east of Blountsville, on Friday before the second Lord's day in October, 1875. Our present session has been well attended and harmoniously conducted. The good Lord has greatly blessed the labors of His servants in many places in and beyond our borders. To Him be all the glory! Amen. We take pleasure in sending correspondents to your several bodies, whose names you will find in these minutes.

Yours in Christian love,

P. M. MUSGROVE, *Mod.*
V. H. DEAN, *R. Clerk.*
C. A. BURNS, *C. Clerk.*

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

P. M. MUSGROVE	Bangor	V. H. DEAN	Walnut Grove
C. A. BURNS	Bangor	E. P. MITCHELL	Chepultepec
JAMES FIELDS	Brooksville	JOHN Y. BAIN	Guntersville
J. C. SHELTON	Brooksville	B. CHAMBERS	Guntersville
WILLIAM WHALEY	Hanceville	D. CARROLL	Thacker's Creek
G. B. WAID	Murphree's Valley		

LICENTIATES.

J. P. A. WHALEY	Hanceville	M. RAY	Winnville
S. W. SMITH	Brooksville	W. H. MUSGROVE	Gum Spring
A. ADAMS	Bangor	WILLIAM YOUNG	Gum Spring
T. B. GOINS	Walnut Grove		

CONSTITUTION.

Delegates from seventeen churches met at Mt. Tabor church for the purpose of organizing a new Association, and agree to keep the rules and order according to the following plan:

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union, and shall be known by the name of **THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

2. Each church shall send a letter to the Association by their delegates, giving the number baptized, received and dismissed by letter, excluded, restored and died during the associational year, total number in fellowship, time of monthly meeting, and contributions for minutes and other purposes.

3. This Association shall be considered merely advisory council, claiming no authority over the rights and privileges of individual churches. It is agreed, however, that the Association shall have the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith and order of the Gospel.

4. Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates to the Association; and should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the reason in her letter to the next meeting of the Association.

5. Any Baptist church may be admitted in this Association by sending a petitionary letter and delegates. If, upon examination, she is found orthodox and orderly, the Moderator shall give her delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. This Association shall elect annually a Moderator and Clerk from her delegates. The Moderator shall preside over her deliberations, preserve order and see that the rules of decorum are faithfully observed by the members, decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Association, and give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall take correct minutes of the proceedings of the Association, superintend their publication, and distribute them among the churches.

7. This Association shall answer or dispose of all queries sent to the Association by the churches, or proposed by any member of the Association, provided such queries shall be expressed in their letters or presented to the Association in writing.

8. This Association may adopt some plan for raising funds by voluntary contributions, to defray the expenses of the Association, for supplying the destitute churches and settlements in her bounds with the preaching of the gospel, and for any other purpose which she may deem proper, leaving every church member free to contribute as he shall purpose in his heart.

All funds thus raised shall be placed in the hands of a Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association, and shall pay it out as the Association may direct.

9. This Association adopts the rules of decorum and declaration of faith published in the minutes of the Muscle Shoals Association in 1853.

10. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except the case mentioned in another section of this constitution.

11. This Association shall elect annually one of her ministers to preach an introductory sermon, and one of her members to write a circular letter for the next session of the Association.

12. The minutes shall be read, approved, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association adjourns.

13. This constitution may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the alteration or amendment has been proposed at a previous annual meeting of the Association.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator and not proceed until his name is called by that officer. If more than one member shall rise to speak at the same time, the Moderator shall determine who shall speak first.

3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association. A mover may not modify or withdraw his own motion, after discussion, if any member object, without a formal vote; nor may a mover accept an amendment to his proposition, after discussion, without its being passed by vote, if any member object. A mover shall reduce his proposition to writing at the request of the Moderator or any member.

5. When a motion has been regularly announced by the Moderator, no other motion shall be received, except to amend, to substitute, or lay upon the table definitely or indefinitely. But a motion for adjournment shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking or the house voting.

6. When a question has been taken up, after allowing time for the debate, the Moderator shall put the question to the vote of the Association, first in the affirmative and then in the negative. Those voting in the affirmative shall say *aye*; those

in the negative, *nay*. If the decision be doubtful, the members voting in the affirmative shall first rise and stand to be counted, then those in the negative. The decision thus made shall be immediately announced by the Moderator.

7. No member shall absent himself without permission from the Moderator.

8. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without the consent of the Moderator, unless it be to correct when misunderstood.

9. The Moderator shall be allowed to speak as other members, provided he appoint some member to fill the chair while speaking.

10. These rules may be amended at any meeting of the Association, by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I.—OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II.—OF THE TRUE GOD.—We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is *JEHOVAH*; the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III.—OF THE FALL OF MAN.—We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV.—OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.—We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V.—OF JUSTIFICATION.—We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI.—OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.—We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate

duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII.—OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

VIII.—OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.—We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX.—OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners: that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the brightest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X.—OF SANCTIFICATION.—We believe sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the sealer and comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

XI.—OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.—We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end: that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors: that a special Providence watches over their welfare: and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII.—OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.—We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government: that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin: to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII.—OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.—We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word: that its only scriptural officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV.—OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—We believe that Christian

baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life: that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV.—OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath: and it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI.—OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.—We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII.—OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.—We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked: that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem: while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse: and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII.—OF THE WORLD TO COME.—We believe that the end of this world is approaching: that at the last day Christ shall descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution: that a solemn separation will then take place: that the wicked will be judged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy: and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Received of Rev. V. H. Dean Twenty Dollars for the printing of the Minutes of the sixteenth annual session of the Warrior River Baptist Association.

W. M. MEERS.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES.	DELEGATES' NAMES. Ordained Ministers thus *	Total	Deceased	Excluded	Dis'm'd by Let.	Restored	Rec'd by Letter	Baptized	Day of Meeting
<i>1st District.</i>												
Pleasant Hill.	C. A. Burns...	W. H. Jett....	Bangor.....	John M. Murphree, Wm. Murphree.....	26	0	3	8	0	0	6	2
Union.....	" "	W. L. Burns.	" "	A. Burns *	48	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Hopewell....	Wm. Whaley ..	M. L. M. Shannon	Hanceville...	W. Whaley, * M. L. M. Shannon, J. Edwards..	61	0	2	5	1	0	4	4
Mt. Taber...	J. C. Shelton..	W. Y. Adams...	Gum Springs	J. Shalin, W. H. Musgrove, W. Y. Adams....	53	0	0	2	0	0	6	4
Blountsville..	Destitute.....	E. N. Wood....	Blountsville..	C. A. Burns, *	6	0	0	3	0	0	4	4
White Plains.	P. M. Musgrove	John Smith....	Bangor.....	Wm. Johnson, S. W. Hays	71	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
Bangor.....	" "	F. L. Hearn....	" "	P. M. Musgrove, * J. D. A. Whaley, F. L. Hearn	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Austin's Creek	Destitute.....	E. K. Head....	Blountsville	E. K. Head, Thos. Jenkins	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good Hope...	W. McHan....	T. J. Weeks....	Hanceville..	T. J. Weeks	19	0	3	0	2	0	7	1
Mt. Moriah...	P. R. Tennyson.	J. W. Barnett..	—	J. Barnett, J. W. Barnett, S. Patterson	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
<i>2d District.</i>												
Warrior Creek	—	—	Summit..*	Not represented	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shiloh.....	J. C. Shelton..	W. Gunter....	Brooksville..	Jas. Fields, * J. C. Shelton *	21	0	5	0	0	1	0	3
Friendship...	Jas. Fields...	V. B. Hunt....	Walnut Grove	A. J. Hunt, C. Scott	70	2	2	0	0	0	6	4
Walnut Grove	G. B. Waid....	W. B. Brown..	" "	V. H. Dean, * W. A. Dupree, W. A. Culbertson	30	2	0	11	0	0	0	2
Harmony.....	Jas. Fields....	W. L. Ellison..	" "	A. F. Whitley	50	0	0	0	1	10	5	1
Rock Springs.	J. Y. Bain....	N. T. Morgan..	Guntersville..	N. T. Morgan, W. H. Lyon	71	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Liberty.....	G. B. Waid....	W. M. Cole....	Chepultepec.	H. H. Mitchell	57	0	0	0	0	2	4	4
Antioch.....	J. C. Shelton..	J. D. Hendricks	Brooksville..	Letter	17	0	3	4	1	0	0	2
Mt. Pleasant.	" "	A. J. Phillips..	Wynnsville ..	A. J. Phillips, H. Whitley	46	0	4	0	0	4	2	2
Macedonia...	" "	John Lowery..	Brooksville..	P. Huff, J. Hays	20	0	1	0	0	2	4	1
Bristoe's Creek	V. H. Dean ..	L. H. Stalcup..	Aurora.....	Wm. Lackey, Sr., Jas. R. Lackey	23	0	4	0	0	0	2	4
Clear Springs.	J. Y. Bain....	J. C. Kimbrough	Guntersville..	J. Y. Bain, * G. Fowler	74	2	0	5	0	0	17	20
New Hope....	B. Chambers...	J. F. Miller....	" "	J. F. Miller	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Mt. High....	Bain & Chambers	W. C. Waid ..	" "	M. N. Gregory, W. C. Waid, W. F. Dawkins..	14	0	0	0	0	3	2	0
					62	61	6	72	17	7	890	

